India's Losing Supply of Unfinished Shoes to U.S.A.

689. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost to the Dominican Republic its position as the largest supplier of unfinished shoes to the U.S.A. as reported by the World Bank;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for India's losing pre-eminence in U.S. shoe market; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to retrieve the lost U.S. market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) While the export figures of unfinished shoes from the Dominican Republic to U.S.A. are not available, as per information available with Council for Leather Exports, Madras, India's export of shoe uppers to U.S.A. has not shown any appreciable decline, as may be observed from the table below:

	(value in Millions US Dollar)
1987-88 . . .	22.84
1988-89 . . .	28.85
1989-90 . . .	29.90
1990-91 . . .	28.54

(*Source*: —Council for Leather Export Madras)

(b) and (c) In absolute terms, there has been an increase in exports of complete shoes to USA as indicated below:

	(value in Million US Dollars)
1987-88 . . .	24.47
1988-89 . . .	26.71
1989-90 . . .	32.78
1990-91 . . .	40.19

(*Source*: Council for Leather Export Madras)

Details of India's Exports and Imports with U.S.S.R.

690. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the largest share of India's exports was to former U.S.S.R.;

(b) what is the item-wise details of quantum of annual exports to former U.S.S.R., since 1980 till its disintegration;

(c) what is the value of exports outstanding, if any, to be realised from the former Soviet Union vis-a-vis the value of imports to be paid by India, if any; and

(d) what procedure is being followed to settle the previous balances of both the export and import accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The item-wise details of quantum of India's annual exports to countries including the erstwhile USSR are available in Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India and Monthly Brochures of Foreign Trade Statistics of India, the copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union the Reserve Bank of India was constrained to hold in abeyance operations of the accounts in India of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR. Consequently, reimbursement of payments to exporters was stopped on 27-12-1991. Subsequently the following arrangements were worked out to facilitate payments in respect of trade commitments already made by Indian exporters. The Reserve Bank of India agreed to settle the replenishment claims from authorised dealers in India, maintaining the accounts of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR, in respect of (i) giods shipped up to 31st December, 1991 and (ii) goods shipped after 31st December, 1991 but not later than 31st March, 1992 against letters